

[30th January 1929]

(2) what is the method by which Government determine the measure of political feeling of a particular kind in a particular locality ;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Magistrate and the Police officer tried to dictate to Mr. Hanumantha Rao on what particular topics he should address the meeting and whether the Sub-Magistrate asked Mr. Hanumantha Rao particularly not to talk about khaddar at the meeting ; and

(f) whether it is a fact that force or show of force was used by the police in dispersing the above public meeting at Tiruvannamalai on 8th November 1928 ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No.

(f) No.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Does the hon. the Law Member deny that the Sub-Magistrate asked Mr. Hanumantha Rao not to talk about khaddar but about other subjects ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I deny it.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Does the hon. the Law Member deny that the Sub-Magistrate threatened the people saying that he would call in constables to disperse the meeting ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Notice.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Does the hon. the Law Member deny that the Sub-Magistrate told the audience to disperse saying that they will be charged as an unlawful assembly ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ The question is assuming more the shape of cross-examination.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Does he deny, Sir ? Will he make an enquiry and take a statement from one of the people present ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ If a statement is presented to me I shall consider what steps should be taken upon that.”

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—“ May I know whether the Sub-Magistrate is an acting man or permanent man ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Notice, Sir.”

*Alleged complaints of the under-trial accused in the Railway strike conspiracy case.*

1170-A Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAIA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government was drawn to the complaint made to the Special Magistrate of Trichinopoly on 25th October 1928 by Mr. Singaravelu Chetti, one of the under-trial accused in the railway strike conspiracy case, regarding the unnecessary suffering caused to them ;

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(b) whether it is a fact that some of the under-trial accused had to wait outside the jail gates from 7 to 9 p.m. on the 25th October night;

(c) whether it was then raining and whether in the place where they were standing, the roof was leaky and the ground was wet and damp;

(d) why this suffering and inconvenience were caused to them; and

(e) whether it is the policy of the Government to deny to the accused in cases of this kind, whatever their status may be, the conveniences given to other classes of accused?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The remand prisoners in question were brought to the jail in two batches. The first batch, one of whom was Singaravelu Chetti, was brought to the jail in jutkas at about 7 p.m. The second batch was walked from the court to the jail and arrived at about 9 p.m. The police escort in charge of the first batch refused to make over the prisoners until the arrival of the second batch, as the officer in charge who had taken over the prisoners, was accompanying the second batch.

(c) It was not raining on the evening in question. It was a bright clear moonlight evening and the verandas provided for the prisoner at the main-gate are absolutely water-proof.

(d) Beyond waiting at the gate, no inconvenience was caused to the prisoners.

(e) No.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—“ If a batch is split into two and one of them is taken early and the other late the first half has to wait till the arrival of the second ? ” a.m.

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ That is what took place in this particular case.”

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—“ Does the Government realize that there was a lot of inconvenience caused till the arrival of the second batch ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I do not think there was any appreciable inconvenience.”

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—“ May I know, Sir, whether waiting outside in the bitter cold weather for two hours is not an inconvenience for an old man of 68 ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ It was not bitterly cold and it was not outside.”

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—“ Has the hon. the Law Member called for the meteorological report or is it on information from the police report he says that the night was not bitterly cold.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ It is from a report of the Magistrate.”

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—“ Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to call for the meteorological report for verification.”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I shall not call for it.”